

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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Web Site: www.ct.gov/csc

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Tuesday, April 13, 2004

For More Information:

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The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) and several key legislators announced today the anticipated schedule for the remainder of the review process of the application by Northeast Utilities (NU) and United Illuminating (UI) to upgrade the power grid from Norwalk to Middletown – often referred to as Phase II. The schedule (attached) calls for a decision in December, 2004.

Pamela B. Katz, Chairman of the Council said: "The Council thoroughly respects the concerns of Representative Amann and his colleagues in the legislature. We agree that only through a cautious and deliberate schedule can we ensure that all issues related to this proposed project are properly reviewed and scrutinized. To that end, the Council will follow the schedule that I have announced today in order to facilitate a patient and orderly review of this proceeding."

Representative Amann said: "I want to express my appreciation to the Siting Council for its willingness to listen to the concerns of legislators and the residents of Connecticut. In the past we have had many frustrating experiences with the Siting Council. But this new Council, with new leadership, seems to be willing to sit down and understand the problems of the people who live along the proposed route of the transmission upgrade. We need to ensure that the public is safe and decisions are made properly. For the Siting Council to slow down the process and listen, and to try to understand the people is all that we ask for and we are appreciative."

NU and UI jointly filed an application with the Council on Thursday, October 9, 2003 to construct a new 345-kV electric transmission line between Middletown and Norwalk and reconstruct portions of its existing lines. The proposed route is approximately 69 miles long and affects as many as 24 municipalities. The Council held eight hearings in the communities along the proposed route this past winter to permit local residents the opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the proposed project. Two days of hearings on the question of the need of the project, and the first of three days of hearings on the effects of EMF, were held in March. Chairman Katz has pledged that additional hearings on EMF effects will be held if necessary.



Conn. Gen Stat. §16-50p directs that applications such as the Phase II project be decided within one year from the date it is initially filed with the Council. An extension of six-months may be granted by the applicant(s).

Derek Phelps, Executive Director of the Siting Council, said: "State statutes allow for as much as a six month extension to this application provided the applicants agree. I am optimistic that CL&P and UI will agree to such an extension."

The Council announced late last year that it would hire an outside, independent consultant to assist in the analysis of options to install the high-voltage electric transmission lines underground. The Council issued a second Request for Proposal (RFP) for such a consultant last week, with a deadline for bids to be received by the Council on April 30, 2004.

The Council's advertisement seeking bidders to its RFP was placed in the Hartford Courant newspaper and selected magazines, trade publications and websites, several with an international circulation. The deadline for bids to be submitted in response to the RFP is Friday, April 30, 2004. The RFP may be found at <http://ct.gov/csc>

EDITORS: The following comments from State legislators were provided for this release:

Representative Themis Klarides (R-114): "I certainly agree with this decision to slow the process down. This is obviously a project of enormous concern to the local communities and it is important to fully involve as many people as possible."

Senator Thomas P. Gaffey (D-13): "I wish to applaud the responsiveness of the Siting Council and its staff. I agree with this decision by the Council to delay the issuance of its decision, and with its decision to engage the services of an expert to help advise the Council in options to install this power line underground."

Representative Terrance E. Backer (D-121), House Chair of Energy & Technology Committee: "This announcement demonstrates how deeply serious the Council has taken the concerns that they heard while conducting their listening tour. Clearly, they understand the complexities and uncertainties related this project. The Council 'Gets it.'"

Senator William A. Aniskovich (R-12): "I applaud Chairman Katz's' decision to extend the schedule for deciding this application. The Council has conducted itself appropriately thus far while attending to what is clearly a highly controversial project. This announcement further assures me that it will do so in the future."

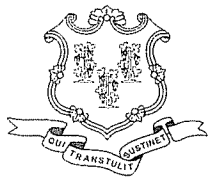
Representative Mary Fritz (D-90), Deputy Speaker of the House: "I view this announcement as good news for the people of my district. It assures me that the Siting Council is not engaged in a rush to judgment."

Senator Win Smith (R-14): "I applaud this decision to take the time necessary to receive the evidence and testimony from the increasing number of parties interested in this application. I also applaud the Council's efforts to work with everyone involved. It is essential that the Council ensure a process that fully accommodates everyone's desire to fully raise concerns related to public health and safety, including the issue of EMF emissions."

Senator Joseph J. Crisco (D-17): "I commend the Siting Council for acting in a judicious and responsible way, and for responding to the concerns of the parents and families who will be impacted by this proposal."

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The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) has jurisdiction to objectively balance the statewide public need for adequate and reliable services at the lowest reasonable cost to consumers with the need to protect the environment and ecology of the State. The Council is funded through application fees and assessments, and administrative assessments of the electric utilities, hazardous waste generators, and telecommunications providers of the State. The agency website is ct.gov/csc



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RE: DOCKET NO. 272 - The Connecticut Light and Power Company and The United Illuminating Company application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction of a new 345-kV electric transmission line and associated facilities between the Scovill Rock Switching Station in Middletown and the Norwalk Substation in Norwalk, Connecticut.

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) announces its remaining schedule for the above-referenced proceeding. All dates are 2004.

Evidentiary Hearings

Pre-filed testimony and discovery for the following is due April 8, 2004.

- Tuesday, April 20 Underground Segments 3 and 4, supported segment changes, cable technology, substations, and construction impacts.
- Wednesday, April 21 Continuation of April 20.
- Thursday, April 22 Alternative routes (i.e. Marine, Highway corridors, Railroad Corridors, High Voltage DC).

Pre-filed testimony and discovery for the following is due May 3, 2004.

- Wednesday, May 12 Continuations of Electric and Magnetic Fields.
- Thursday, May 13 Continuations of Electric and Magnetic Fields.

Pre-filed testimony and discovery for the following is due May 18, 2004.

- Tuesday June 1 Overhead segments 1 and 2, supported segment changes, cable technology, substations, and construction impacts.
- Wednesday, June 2 East Shore Route and GE modeling.
- Thursday, June 3 Continuation of subject matter.

Pre-filed testimony and discovery for the following is due June 7, 2004.

- Tuesday June 15 Council's Underground Transmission Consultant.
- Wednesday, June 16 Ecological, historic, scenic and recreational values.
- Thursday June 17 Continuation of subject matter.



Close of Record (Approximately 90 Days, Hence)

- Friday, September 17, 2004 Close of Record. Parties and Intervenors may file briefs and proposed Findings of Fact.

Draft Findings of Fact (Approximately 60 Days, Hence)

- Friday, November 19, 2004 Staff will develop draft Findings of Fact for Council review.

Opinion, and Decision & Order (Approximately 30 Days, Hence)

- Friday, December 17, 2004 Council will deliberate and render an Opinion, and Decision & Order (D&O).

Directions to:

Institute of Technology and Business Development
Central Connecticut State University
185 Main Street New Britain, CT 06051

From I-84 East (Waterbury)

Exit 35 (left exit) onto Route 72 East. Take third exit, marked Main Street. At the end of the exit take a right and travel one block to Chestnut Street. Turn right onto Chestnut Street and travel one block to Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street and ITBD is one block on the right.

From I-84 West (Hartford)

Exit 39A onto Route 9 South. Take Exit 27 - Chestnut Street (left exit). At the end of the exit take a right onto Chestnut Street and proceed through the second light to Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street and ITBD is one block on the right.

From South (Route 9, 91, or 15)

Travel north on Route 9 to Exit 26 (Downtown New Britain Exit). Go straight at the end of the exit and left at the second traffic light onto Chestnut Street. Go through one traffic light to Main Street. Turn right onto Main Street and ITBD is one block on the right.

Municipal Parking Garage (Chestnut Street):

Short-term visitor parking is located in the ITBD building garage. Long-term parking is available in the Municipal Parking garage on Chestnut Street.